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POETRY.

A DELINQUENT SUBSCRIBER'S SOLILOQUY.

Yes, it is so! two years have flown,
Since first I took my paper;
Time scarcely comes ere it is gone,
Like transient breeze of morn.

Could I keep pace with his career,
(Though e'er so tenuous)
And pay my pen's bills each year,
'Twere not so sad a story.

But now, near twelve months, I find
The printer's have been at my door,
And doing me the honor to find
I have not paid a bill for a year.

"The bill is now four dollars—near—
It gives me much to think of,
When I have spent it all each year,
For many a useless trinket."

Alas! how could I wrong the man,
Who long has sent me weekly,
So rich a treasure? and who can
Endure such treatment weekly?

Of late I've suffered much from fear,
And mental perturbation,
Lest I should see my name appear
In black list publication.

But thanks to Providence, most kind,
And printer's long forbearance,
I will now ease my troubled mind,
By paying off my clearance.

The bill is left me now—ah, let me see
From wages of last winter,
Only a solitary V,
And that shall pay the printer.

My negligence in time that's past,
I hope he'll not think hard on,
For I will pay him well at last,
And humbly beg his pardon.

THE TREE OF DEATH.

BY ELIZA COOK.

Let the King of the grave be asked to tell
The plant he loveth best,
And it will not be the cypress tree,
Though 'tis ever the church-yard guest;
He will not mark the hemlock dark,
Nor stay where the night shadow spreads;
He will not say 'tis the sombre yew,
Though it spring o'er skeletons' heads;
He will not point to the willow branch,
Where breaking spirits pine beneath,
For a brighter leaf sheds deeper grief,
And a fairer tree is the tree of death.

But where the green, rich stalks are seen,
Where the ripe fruit gush and shine,
"This," cries he, "is the tree for me—
The vine, the beautiful vine!"
I crouch among the emerald leaves,
Gemmaed with the ruby grapes,
I dip my sphere in their poison here,
And he is strong that escapes.
Crowds dance round, with satyr bound,
Till my dart is hurled from his traitor sheath;
When I shriek with glee, no friend to me
Is so true as the vine, the tree of death.

Oh! the glossy vine has a serpent charm,
It bears an unblest fruit;
There's a taint about each tendril'd arm,
And a curse upon its root.
Its juice may flow to warm the brow,
And wildly lighten the eye,
But the frenzied mirth of a revelling crew
Will make the wise man sigh;
For the maniac laugh, the trembling frame,
The idiot speech and pestilent breath,
The shattered mind, the blasted frame,
Are wrought by the vine, the tree of death.

Fill, fill the glass, and let it pass;
But ye who quaff! oh, think
That even the heart that loves must loathe
The lips that deeply drink.

The best may mourn o'er a close link torn,
And the weeping drops may roll;
But 'tis better to mourn o'er a pulseless form
Than the wreck of a living soul.

Then a health to the hemlock, the yew, and the yew,
Two worm-hiding grass and the willow wreath,
For though shading the tomb, they fling not a gloom
So dark as the vine, the tree of death.

THE NEWSBOY. It is astonishing how, thrown on the world at an early age to take care of themselves, the wit and general character of these little fellows is refined—they have always a ready reply. When a year ago or more the Harper's establishment was burnt out and their water damaged books were hawked about the streets, an urchin insisted that we should buy of him a volume of Mosheim's Church History. We turned over the damp leaves, and handed it back, saying, "It's the second volume only." "O, well," he replied, "you won't want to read more than one, isn't it very interesting?" "Most too dry, we guess," was our answer. "O, if that's all," he cried, holding up a well soaked volume, "here's one wetter, a great sight." Noah's Messenger.

DIETETICS. There is no end, it would seem, to the variety of opinions respecting rules of diet, and the effects of different kinds of food upon the health of human beings. While some ascribe great virtues to a diet exclusively vegetable, others look upon such means of nutrition as utterly insufficient for the healthy invigoration of the system. It has been generally supposed, however, that vegetable food was best adapted to warm climates, and that colder latitudes required the more stimulating nourishment of animal food. But the testimony of Sir Francis Head respecting the Guachos, inhabitants of the Pampas in South America, would lead to a conclusion somewhat different. Sir Francis, after retiring from his Governorship of Upper Canada, traveled very extensively in South America, where he had an opportunity of learning a great deal of the habits of the Guachos. After stating that they often continue on horseback day after day, galloping over their boundless plains, under a burning sun, and performing labors almost of an incredible description, he remarks:—

"As the constant food of the Guacho is beef & mutton, his constitution is so strong that he is able to endure great fatigue, and the distances he will ride, and the number of hours he will remain on horse back, would be hardly credited." Sir Francis Head also brings his own personal experience in proof of the correctness of the above statement. "When I first crossed the Pampas," he remarked, "I went with a carriage, and although I had been accustomed to riding all my life, I could not at all ride with the persons, (drivers of the carriage), and after galloping five or six hours, was obliged to get into the carriage, but after I had been riding three or four months and living upon beef and water, I found myself in a certain condition, which I can only describe by saying that I felt no exertion could kill me. For a week I could daily be upon my horse before sunrise, and ride till two or three hours after sunset, and have really tired out ten or twelve horses. This will explain the immense distances which the people in South America are said to ride, which could only be done on beef and water.

How much of the power of endurance thus exhibited is to be ascribed to the constant habit of activity, and how much to this peculiar diet of beef and water, is a question which it is not for us to determine. The fact, however, here stated is well enough authenticated to entitle it to its just weight.

THE HEAT OF CEYLON. Col. Campbell, in a work entitled "Excursions, Adventures and Field Sports in Ceylon, (just published in London,) speaking of the excessive heat of the climate, says:—

But how often have I felt afterwards, in passing through or residing in the forests of Ceylon, how awfully impressive is the stillness of noon. Every animal seeks the deepest shade. The fish conceal themselves at the bottom of rivers or lakes, except where the over-hanging foliage screens them from the heat of the too fervid sun. Not a bird is on the wing; and all nature seems as it were to be at rest, were it not that the almost appalling silence is broken only to be made the more impressive, by the continued low buzz or humming of thousands of insects. How powerfully have I felt, in the thickly wooded neighborhood of Matura, all this combination of the great and little of so much that is wonderful in nature! But as soon as the evening begins to be somewhat cool, the world seems again to start into new life. Every creature is in motion, and in search of its prey, or of the food it requires of some kind or other, which the Almighty has so bountifully provided for them all. The wild fowl, of various kinds, fly in large flocks towards their haunts; the Pea and Jungle fowl call their respective broods around them for the night; even the Jackal begins to howl for its prey. Numbers of flowers, which had closed their leaves before the scorching beams of the sun, now gently unfold them, and remain open so as to receive the dew which generally falls so abundantly. Here also the pretty moonflower among the rest, the leaves of which had been closed during the day, open completely as if to behold the sun's grandeur, as he takes his leave of us in surprising brilliancy! It is generally believed that birds within the tropics, though they have much more splendid plumage than those we find in Europe, cannot sing; this is not the case here; for several of them have the sweetest notes that I ever listened to; and one in particular sings so delightfully as to have acquired the name of the Ceylon Night-tinge.

SLEEPING APARTMENTS OF THE SYRIANS.—Having touched on such sacred ground as the sleeping apartments of the ladies, I may as well acquaint the reader that to such the term 'bed-rooms' would be quite misapplied; throughout Syria the couch of repose consists of a mattress and padded quilts, on which the occupant stretches him or herself, frequently without undressing at all; and, on rising in the morning and performing a slight ablution, the bed is rolled up & stowed away in a closet. Such a 'privateer wash' as above described, may not, perhaps, be deemed consistent with our ideas of cleanliness; however, the deficiency is commonly made up by a couple of weekly ablutions at the public 'bath-houses' or baths, where a severe scrubbing, steaming, and parboiling soon clear off a multitude of sins. [Napier's Reminiscences.

Tasso being told that he had an opportunity of taking advantage of a very bitter enemy, he said, "I wish not to plunder him, but there are things which I wish to take from him; not his honor, his wealth, nor his life—but his ill will."

MONUMENT TO WASHINGTON. This debt to the memory of the Father of his Country is in a fair way to be paid. Men of both parties seem united in the wish to have the work done and worthily. The site of the monument and the plan of construction have not been finally decided upon. Those who love to concentrate all objects of interest in one point, will probably think of the lower end of the Park, that the Hall, the Institute, the Fountain and the Monument, may each assist to heighten the attraction of the others. Those who would have the honor thus paid to the first General of true freedom serve as a moral lesson to every stranger that lands on our shores, would prefer the Battery. Others like best the new Square in the upper part of the city. Of all the suggestions we have seen, that of the Brother Jonathan is (like itself) most heartily American. It proposes to erect the Monument in the midst of the "Five Points." The place wants purifying, and there the Monument would not only be an ornament but a positive blessing to the city. This is taking republican ground for an equal diffusion of decency and respectability, and certainly if ever any quarter of our city needed a reforming infusion of decency, it is Dicens' Place. It is rightly termed the Plague Spot, for in that labyrinth of foul, disease engendering streets, is germinated an amount of crime and misery that would frighten any Christian people into some efforts at remedy. If a subscription for that purpose was set on foot, there is no doubt money enough might be raised—with some aid from the city, perhaps—to open Anthony and Leonard streets, through to Clutnam, and give space for a Monument square. This would at once send a healthy, purifying current into the den of iniquity, and (what is much needed) open a direct thoroughfare from the North River to Catharine street and the East River. N. Y. Sun.

ANECDOTE OF THE MAYOR OF TIVERTON. During the time when Wesley and Whitfield were gaining so many converts in many parts of England, the former came one day to preach at Tiverton. This created considerable excitement in town, and the mayor, fearing some riot might ensue, issued his proclamation, commanding Wesley to desist, as it was dangerous to the peace and good order that he should preach at that place. On being remonstrated with, he made the following laconic reply: "I don't see what occasion there can be for any new religion in Tiverton. Why do we want another way of going to heaven when there's so many already? Why, sir, there's the Old Church and the New Church; that's one religion; there's Parson Kid-dell at the Pitt meeting; that's two; Parson Westcott's in Peter street; that's three; and old Parson Terry's in Newport street; that's four. Four ways of going to heaven! If they went go to heaven by one or the other of these ways by—they shant go to heaven at all from Tiverton, while I'm mayor of the town."

ABSENT MINDED. The last instance of absent mindedness occurred at Canadagua a few nights since, which is related as follows: As a party of ladies and gentlemen were waiting for the western train for Rochester, it being then past midnight, they observed a genteel looking fellow who had for some time been asleep on one of the settees in the eating house at Canadagua, get up & proceeded towards the door with a large spit box in his hand, which he had taken up from the floor, thinking it was his hat. When at the door he made several unsuccessful attempts to fit it on his head; but finding it not suited to his head, he rubbed his forehead with an exclamation of "d—n it," and went back and deposited it on the floor, took his hat and sneaked out of the room, to the no small amusement of the spectators.

Few girls, whatever they may pretend, thoroughly dislike the man who makes them an offer. They may not choose him for a husband, but they at least owe him gratitude for his preference; he has flattered their pride in its most sensitive point, and it is impossible to hate him who has made us better love ourselves.

Dr. Franklin observed: "The eyes of other people are the eyes that ruin us. It all but myself were blind, I should want neither fine houses nor fine furniture."

REMARKABLE MEMORY. In a late letter, Henry Clay says: "Well do I remember when I first consented to become a candidate for President." That was a great many years ago.

Willis says, "We love women a little what we do know of them, and a great deal for what we do not."

Again: "Flirtation is a circulating library, in which we seldom ask twice for the same volume."

If a man has a right to be proud of any thing, it is of a good action, done as it ought to be, without any base interest lurking at the bottom of it.—Stearns.

ECONOMY. It is said that a lady removing from Philadelphia to Illinois saved the price of transportation of a featherbed by wearing it for a bundle.

CIVIL.—Do make yourselves at home ladies, said a female to her visitors one day, I'm quite at home myself, I can assure you, and I wish you all were.

PALENQUE.

BY GEORGE HARDING.

The discovery of our continent opened a new era to the world. It brought to light a people, whose existence was unknown to the rest of mankind. The origin of the earliest inhabitants of America has been, and perhaps will long continue to be, a subject of curious investigation. There are several different suppositions as to the source from which the aborigines were derived; but no certain conclusions have yet been made.

In glancing over the different tribes who composed the inhabitants of North America, we find a race of people differing so strongly in various sections, that we can hardly conclude that they have been derived from the same origin and ancestry. On the one hand, we see the savage Esquimaux; on the other, the almost refined Mexican. These facts relate to the time of their first discovery; for the latter nation having been conquered by the Spaniards, became an altered people. When Cortez invaded Mexico, he found the natives abounding in wealth, and possessed of considerable knowledge in architecture, as well as in the rudiments of other arts. But from him we have received no complete account of the state of the Mexicans. Since his time, descriptions have been given of the remains of ancient cities that appeared to have been built by civilized communities. These are for the most part vague, and few statements of the real conditions of the ruins have as yet been obtained. Interest has again been aroused by the appearance of a work by Mr. Stephens, who has recently returned from a journey of discovery in Central America. He visited the cities of Copan and Palenque, besides several other localities, abounding in ancient ruins, of which his narrative contains a vivid description.

These cities of a forgotten empire are situated in or near Southern Mexico and Yucatan, in a region of very luxuriant vegetation; and it is owing to this circumstance that Palenque and Copan have been hidden in a dense forest, which is exceedingly difficult to penetrate. It is an astonishing fact, that the Spaniards living near are not fully acquainted with the ruins. They can throw but little light on the subject.

Mr. Stephens was informed that the remains of Palenque were discovered by a party of Spaniards, in 1759. He thinks their existence must have been known to the Indians from time immemorial. There is no mention of such a city in any known history, and we have no tradition relating to it. It has received the name of Palenque from before the year 1787, when Captain Antonio Del Rio visited the ruins; but his report was locked up in the archives of Guatemala until the revolution. It then came into the hands of an English gentleman, who published a translation in 1822. Dupuis's work appeared in France in 1834. Shortly afterwards Lord Kingsborough produced an account of Palenque, which sold for the sum of \$800 dollars per copy.

It will hardly be deemed necessary to enter into a diffuse and elaborate description of the remains of houses, palaces, altars, statues, pyramids and temples. It is impossible to contemplate such monuments of ancient art, without wondering at the skill, taste, and mechanical power of a people, who, we have every reason to believe, used tools of wood and stone, instead of instruments of iron.

Among the ruins, we are struck with the features delineated in the sculptured images. At first sight, we might conclude that such were the mere results of fancy; but a glance at the Indians found by the Spaniards in this portion of the world, tends to show that the ancient people of Mexico bore some resemblance to these statues. The flat heads, which is the prominent point of notice, can be explained from the custom which many American Indians have of compressing the cranium in infancy. All the antiquities of Central America abound in hieroglyphics, which doubtless record the history of ancient nations. The remains of idols appear in many places. These are adorned with head ornaments, and in some instances are not unlike those of the old Egyptians. The palaces and temples are mostly in a ruinous condition, and consist of a number of apartments, opening into courts and quadrangles. Many of the handsome edifices stand on pyramidal elevations. The entrance to most of these palaces is by a staircase, with a doorway at the upper part, but no doors have as yet been discovered. The only stone statue found at Palenque was ten feet six inches high. Mr. Stephens thinks that it bears a strong resemblance to the Egyptian statues. It is ornamented with earrings and other representations of jewels. Several of the altars are in a nearly perfect state, and display an evident regard to architectural embellishment; and it is somewhat singular, that on one of the tablets there is sculptured a cross, before which two suppliants appear to be kneeling. This circumstance has given rise to many learned speculations with regard to Palenque. Dupuis accounts for the appearance of the cross, from the fact that it had a symbolical meaning among ancient nations, before the time of our Saviour. The hieroglyphics seem to be almost Egyptian in their style and character; at any rate, it is probable that they are constructed on a similar system to those that have been discovered near the banks of the Nile. As ocular demonstration, when practicable, is in all cases to be preferred to mere description, it will not probably be deemed inappropriate, by way of illustrating this portion of our subject, to present the reader with an engraving of one of the most remarkable of the idolatrous monuments of Central America. The sketch from which this engraving is taken was drawn for Mr. Stephens, the celebrated traveler, and the engraving has been politely furnished by the publishers of this work, Messrs. Hargers of New York, to

serve as an embellishment to this article. He states that it forms a prominent object in the ruins of Copan, and that it is situated at the foot of a wall which rises in steps to an elevation of 30 or 40 feet. The height of this singular monument is 11 feet 9 inches; its breadth about three feet on each side, and it stands on a pedestal which must have been seven feet square. A little above the center of the north side, which is here represented, is a sculptured face, presumed to be a portrait of some king or hero, who had probably been deified after his death.—King Solomon said, "there is nothing new under the sun;" and here we see an instance in point; for the image on this monument is that of a person who wore moustaches, as do our fops and dandies of the present day. Beneath the portrait are seen the hands of the image placed upon the breast, and they are apparently very well formed. The other parts of the front of the monument, so well as the three remaining sides, are richly sculptured with strange figures, kingly crowns, and what appears to be symbolical representations of ancient customs, fables, or events. Within twelve feet stands a pillar of colossal size, formed like the monument itself, of a soft gritty stone, which had once been painted red, as some few vestiges of the pigment are now to be seen. This altar is ornamented with a death's head, and other gloomy symbols, and its top is cut into grooves or channels supposed to have been intended to carry off the blood of human or animal victims immolated in sacrifice. The proximity of such a structure to the monument we have described, most surely strengthens the impression that the sculptured portrait is that of some object of worship.

It is remarkable also, that in many parts of the South American continent, pyramids remain to this day that are well and uniformly built of solid stone. In this particular, an identity of taste is presented between the unknown people of Palenque and those of early Asia.

Some idea of the remote antiquity of Palenque may be formed from the fact, that its ruins are absolutely concealed by the thickness of the surrounding forests, while the very roofs of its houses, palaces, and temples, have been covered by the action of the elements and the falling of leaves, with a sufficient depth of mould to bear a thick wood of trees. Some of the largest too having been cut down and examined, indicated, by the concentric circles in their trunks, that they were several centuries old. And yet these trees must have commenced their growth when the city was as deserted and as desolate as it is at the present day.

Having examined the condition and extent of the ruins of Palenque, let us proceed to inquire, as far as possible, at what period, and by what people, these cities were built. With regard to the former, many conjectures have been made, and the data upon which to form any rational conclusion are extremely vague. Dupuis gives to the ruins an antediluvian origin, and in support of this opinion quotes the fact of the great quantity of earth under which many portions are buried. This, Mr. Stephens shows to be improbable, for he removed a portion of this earth, which was rather loose, in a short time. He does not consider Palenque of such great antiquity as many imagine; but he thinks that the city was the work of a people who occupied the country a short time previous to the invasion of the Spaniards. This supposition is founded on the circumstances of the climate and the luxuriance of the soil, being very destructive to all productions of art; while the discovery of wooden beams in a state of perfect preservation, would seem to strengthen such an opinion. But it is recorded that Cortez passed within a few miles of the ruins; and it is probable, if they had been inhabited, that he would have known the fact, and have visited them. It is, therefore, with our present insufficient knowledge, impossible to fix upon any precise period of habitation to these antiquities. We may, by a comparison of the idols, hieroglyphics, and buildings, with similar remains in the old world, strive to identify them, and thus deduce an origin for the ancient Mexicans. They do not resemble any of the works of the Greeks or Romans; hence we must go to Asia or Africa for further comparisons. The architecture of Japan and India appears to be of an entirely different kind from that of Central America, the former exhibiting vast excavations in the earth, which never occur in the latter. In the next place, we apply to the ancient Egyptians, Phoenicians, or Carthaginians, and here we are most likely to obtain the source of the earliest inhabitants of Central America. The former countries abound in statues, pyramids, and many other architectural remains, to which some of the relics in Palenque and other neighboring cities seem to bear an affinity. Not only do the mounds, pyramids, forms of buildings, and hieroglyphics, exhibit an identity of taste; but it is remarkable that at Durango, in the southern part of Mexico, mummies have been discovered in the interior of pyramids, banded and preserved in a similar manner to those of Egypt. Near the mummies, too were found beads, a flat-pan, and ornaments of bone resembling polished ivory. Now, although such things have not been discovered at Palenque, still, as it is probable the same nation inhabited all the cities of that region of the American continent, the relics of Durango may very fairly be referred to, in the inquiry under consideration. Let it be remembered also, that the Mexicans have a tradition of some universal deluge, resembling that of Noah; and they relate a circumstance that occurred on the subsidence of the waters, precisely similar to the scriptural account of the dove and the olive branch. The ancient Mexican calendar also, was not unlike, in several of its features, the calendar of Egypt and of Asia.

This micrograph shows a horizontal crack in a concrete specimen. The crack is a dark, continuous line running across the center of the image. The concrete matrix on either side of the crack is light gray and shows a granular texture with some small dark spots, likely aggregates or pores.